

Application No. 09/515,158  
Amendment dated October 13, 2004  
Reply to Office Action dated July 19, 2004

Remarks/Arguments

The following remarks are being filed in response to the Official Office Action of the Examiner mailed July 19, 2004, setting a three month shortened statutory period for response ending October 19, 2004. Claims 1, 3, 10-16 and 19 remain pending.

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated July 19, 2004. For the reasons set forth in Applicant's Amendment filed on November 13, 2003 as well as other reasons, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejections of all pending claims.

However, in paragraph 16 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 9-15 and 18-19 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have elected at this time to amend claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 2, 7 and 9, and therefore, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 3, and 10-15, which depend from claim 1, are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Likewise, claim 16 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 17 and 18, and therefore, claim 16 is also believed to be in condition for allowance. Dependent claim 19, which is dependent from claim 16, is also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the canceled claims in a subsequently filed continuation application.

In view of the foregoing, all pending claims 1, 3, 10-16 and 19 are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. If the

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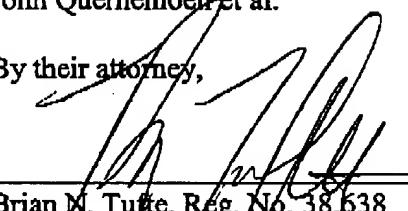
Examiner believes it would be beneficial to discuss the application or its examination in any way, please call the undersigned attorney at (612) 359-9348.

Respectfully submitted,

John Quernemoen et al.

By their attorney,

Dated: October 13, 2004

  
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Brian N. Tufte, Reg. No. 38,638  
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC  
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 800  
Minneapolis, MN 55403-2402  
Telephone: (612) 677-9050  
Facsimile: (612) 359-9349